



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 23, 2015

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240538**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Piedmont"), JSI files the attached confidential and redacted versions of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ Piedmont seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of its Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan as required by Section 54.313(a)(1).³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

cc: Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Protective Order, DA 12-1857 rel. Nov. 16, 2012 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313(a)(1).



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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240538
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. (“JSI”), on behalf of its client Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Company”) hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission’s rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company’s annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission’s rules (“Report”).³
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1), Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan (“Progress Report”) which is contained in the attachment to the 2015 Report.⁴
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company’s Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(1).

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Five-Year Plan to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

 FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		54.313 Completion Required	54.422 Completion Required
(check box when complete)			
<100>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<200>	Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<210>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<300>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310>	Detail on Attempts (voice)	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<320>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<330>	Detail on Attempts (broadband)	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		
<410>	Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<420>	Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<430>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<440>	Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<450>	Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<500>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510>	240538SC510.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600>	Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610>	240538SC610.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700>	Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<710>	Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<800>	Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900>	Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?	(if yes, complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1000>	Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1010>		(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1100>	Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1110>		(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1200>	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

<2000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> (yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<111>		

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.



Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

<113>	Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets	Yes
<114>	Report how much universal service (USF) support was received	Yes
<115>	How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality	Yes
<116>	How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage	Yes
<117>	How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity	Yes
<118>	Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.	Not Applicable

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

240538
PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
2016
Brandi Thompson
8646833730 ext.
brandi@prtcom.com

[illegible]

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

1/1/2015	
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[illegible]

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

-- See attached worksheet --

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	864683730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@ptcom.com

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		FCC Form 481
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Data Collection Form		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

<1210>	Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	<div>240538C1210.pdf</div>	Name of Attached Document
<1220>	Link to Public Website	HTTP	

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

<1221>	Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1222>	Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1223>	Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
<i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</i>		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	FEDMONT KURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646633730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@pitcom.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i}
- <2011a> 3rd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii}
- <2011b> Attachment {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii}

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification {47 CFR § 54.312(a)}

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1)}
- <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2)}
- <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3)}
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation {47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)}

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019> Interim Progress Certification

Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

<2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

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FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandi.t@prt.com.com

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010)

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan

Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

240538SC3010.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011)

Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

☒

(3012)

Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

240538SC3012.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013)

Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))

☒

(3014)

If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report

☒

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015)

Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)

☒

(3016)

Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☒

(3017)

If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

240538SC3017.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018)

If the response is no on line 3014, Is your company audited?

☐

(3019)

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains

☐

Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications

(3020)

Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☐

(3021)

Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit

☐

(3022)

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

☐

Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers,

(3023)

Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant

☐

(3024)

Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

☐

(3025)

Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☐

(3026)

Attach the worksheet listing required information

☐

(3026)

Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandi.t@prt.com.com

Financial Data Summary	
(3027) Revenue	
(3028) Operating Expenses	
(3029) Net Income	
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	
(3031) Total Assets	
(3032) Total Debt	
(3033) Total Equity	
(3034) Dividends	

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	240538
<015> Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Kara Horner
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Controller
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	8646823131 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240538 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2015
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Lans Chase
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Staff Director - Regulatory
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692015 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240538 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.’s demonstration of complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for voice and broadband services:

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Piedmont”) hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Piedmont is subject to consumer protection obligations under both federal and South Carolina state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina which disclose rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Section 103-612.2.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which govern Standards and Quality of Service (Sections 103-661, 103-662, and 103-663 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Customer Relations, including billing,

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

deposits, discontinuance and termination of service (Sections 103-620 through 103-633 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Engineering and Safety Standards (Sections 103-640 through 103-646 and 103-670 through 103-672 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Inspections and Tests (Sections 103-650 through 103-653 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Records and Reports (Sections 103-610 through 103-619 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations) and Customer Complaints (Section 103-628 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Section 103-622.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Piedmont is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in 47 CFR § 8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the 2015 Open Internet Order when it becomes effective.

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative’s demonstration of ability to function in emergency situations for voice and broadband services:

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Piedmont”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)¹ and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Piedmont’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2) and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Piedmont can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Piedmont to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. In addition, Piedmont has redundancy for connectivity purposes *via* additional routes and electronic equipment for voice and broadband services.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Piedmont has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as Piedmont has access to fuel.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	24 05 38
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2015
<701>	Residential Local Service Charge	
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	

<703>

[illegible]

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prt.com.com

[illegible]

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.10 Lifeline Program

3.10.1 General

- A. Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable retail service offering for which qualifying low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for voice telephony service that includes the following services: voice-grade access to the public switched network; local usage; access to emergency services; and toll limitation. (C)
- B. The Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in South Carolina is equal to the total of federal support as established by the Federal Communications Commission and state support as established by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage. (C)
- C. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer's federal End-User Common Line Charge. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate. (N)
- D. The Lifeline Program reduction to voice telephony service shall apply only to residential service. Qualifying customers must subscribe to a generally available residential service plan or package that includes voice telephony service that is made available in the Company's service area. (C) (T)
- E. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to voice telephony charges and then to any outstanding charges for additional services. (N)
- F. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services. (T)
- G. The Lifeline Program rate reduction does not apply to Service Connection Charges. (T)
- H. The Lifeline Program rate will not be available on a retroactive basis. (T)

Issue Date: May 24, 2012

By: William Griswold, CEO
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 249, 201 Anderson Drive, Laurens, South Carolina 29360
Email: prtcnet@prtcnet.com, Telephone: (864) 682-3131

Effective Date: June 1, 2012

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.10 Lifeline Program (Cont'd)

3.10.2 Eligibility and Certification Requirements

- A. Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:
1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
 2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:

Medicaid;
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;
Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
Federal Public Housing Assistance;
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program;
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
 3. Other eligibility requirements may be established by the Commission.
- B. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must provide documentation of income-based or program-based eligibility and certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in paragraph A. above, and must on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s) or to meet income eligibility requirements. The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
- C. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.10 Lifeline Program (Cont'd)

(D)

(D)

3.10.3 Restrictions

- A. Only one Lifeline Assistance credit is available per household.

(C)

3.10.4 Recertification

Customers must recertify on an annual basis that they continue to qualify for the discounted service.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.10 Lifeline Program (Cont'd)

3.10.5 Credit and Collection

A. Credit References

The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Lifeline Program.

B. Deposits

The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available or if the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

(C)
|
(C)

3.10.6 Service Connection Charges

A. Service charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing residential access line service when they convert to the Lifeline Program.

B. Service Connection Charges will apply when:

1. Existing eligible residential Local Exchange Service customers also convert to a different grade of eligible residential service and/or Optional Calling Services at the time the Lifeline Program billing is initiated.
2. A customer receiving Lifeline Program billing voluntarily elects to convert to telephone service arrangements which preclude Lifeline Program eligibility.
3. New residential applicants (those without existing Local Exchange Service) eligible for the Lifeline Program will be subject to applicable Service Connection Charges.

C. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to the Lifeline Program will be subject to the applicable Service Charges as outlined in Section 4 of this Tariff.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.1 General

- A. Except as provided for in Section 3.8, Piedmont Call Plus, the Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. offers only single party residence and business service throughout its service area.
- B. Local exchange service rates in this tariff are identified with the Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. of Laurens, South Carolina.
- C. The Basic Rate Area for each exchange includes the entire exchange area.
- D. The rates for service and equipment not specifically shown in this section are presented in other sections of this tariff.

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates

Monthly exchange rates are authorized by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and are shown below:

3.2.1 Flat Rate Service, Laurens Rural Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Gray Court, Laurens City, Enoree, Hickory Tavern, Waterloo, West End and Clinton.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	
	One Party Access Line	\$28.70	(I)
B.	<u>Residence</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates (Cont'd)

3.2.1 Flat Rate Service, Laurens Rural Exchange (Cont'd)

C. Pay Station

This service is deleted from the tariff

D. PABX and PBX

Trunk Lines	\$36.50
-------------	---------

E. Churches

One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)
-----------------------	---------	-----

3.2.2 Flat Rate Service, Enoree Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Woodruff, Gray Court, Laurens Rural, Laurens City, Hickory Tavern, Waterloo, West End and Spartanburg.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
----	-----------------	---------------------

One Party Access Line	\$30.50	(I)
-----------------------	---------	-----

B. Residence

One Party Access Line	\$16.15	(I)
-----------------------	---------	-----

C. Pay Station

This service is deleted the tariff

D. PABX and PBX

Trunk Lines	\$41.12
-------------	---------

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates (Cont'd)

3.2.2 Flat Rate Service, Enoree Exchange (Cont'd)

E. Churches

One Party Access Line	\$16.15	(I)
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3.2.3 Flat Rate Service, Hickory Tavern Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Gray Court, Laurens City, Laurens Rural, Waterloo, West End and Enoree.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	
	One Party Access Line	\$28.70	(I)
B.	<u>Residence</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)
C.	<u>Pay Station</u>		
	This service is deleted from the tariff		
D.	<u>PABX and PBX</u>		
	Trunk Lines	\$36.00	
E.	<u>Churches</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates (Cont'd)

3.2.4 Flat Rate Service, West End Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Gray Court, Laurens City, Laurens Rural, Waterloo, Hickory Tavern and Enoree.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	
	One Party Access Line	\$28.70	(I)
B.	<u>Residence</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)
C.	<u>Pay Station</u>		
	This service is deleted from the tariff		
D.	<u>PABX and PBX</u>		
	Trunk Lines	\$36.00	
E.	<u>Churches</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates (Cont'd)

3.2.5 Flat Rate Service, Gray Court Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Hickory Tavern, Laurens City, Laurens Rural, Waterloo, West End and Enoree.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	
	One Party Access Line	\$28.70	(I)
B.	<u>Residence</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)
C.	<u>Pay Station</u>		
	This service is deleted from the tariff		
D.	<u>PABX and PBX</u>		
	Trunk Lines	\$36.00	
E.	<u>Churches</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates (Cont'd)

3.2.6 Flat Rate Service, Waterloo Exchange

The rates quoted herein also entitle the subscribers of this exchange to call without additional charge subscribers in the exchange service areas of Hickory Tavern, Laurens City, Laurens Rural, Gray Court, West End and Enoree.

A.	<u>Business</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	
	One Party Access Line	\$28.70	(I)
B.	<u>Residence</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)
C.	<u>Pay Station</u>		
	This service is deleted from the tariff		
D.	<u>PABX and PBX</u>		
	Trunk Lines	\$36.00	
E.	<u>Churches</u>		
	One Party Access Line	\$14.35	(I)

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAC 240538)

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. hereby certifies that throughout 2014, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

PIEDMONT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAC 240538)

**Response to Line 3012 - List of Community Anchor Institutions to Which the ETC Newly
Began Providing Service**

The FCC's *USF/ICC Transformation Order* requires a listing of community anchor institutions to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service.¹ As an incumbent LEC, PRTC provides broadband service to all community anchor institutions requesting service in its service area. PRTC did not newly begin providing community anchor institutions with access to broadband service in calendar year 2014.

Number	Name	Address

¹ The FCC has defined community anchor institutions in Section 54.5 of its Rules as “schools, libraries, health care providers, community colleges, other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and entities.”

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY